

## ATTACHMENT 2

To: Staff Work Group on Urban Water Use Measurement  
From: Bennett Brooks and Eric Poncelet, CONCUR, Inc.  
Date: April 2, 2003  
Re: Revised Purpose/Scoping Statement

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Attached please find a revised Purpose/Scoping Statement for the Staff Work Group on Urban Water Use Measurement.

The document puts forward a revised purpose, role and scope for the Staff Work Group. This document has been revised to address and account for two overarching themes that emerged during the March 18, 2003 meeting:

- ***Uncertainty regarding the scope of the Work Group's task.*** Meeting participants were uncertain of the Work Group's scope and sought additional clarity. Among the questions raised: Is the effort merely focused at meter retrofitting and volumetric pricing? Are other measurement-related topics appropriate to consider? Is the Work Group trying to help the WUE Program Manager address all the gaps in the state's current legislative and regulatory approach to measurement, or is there a more focused charge?
- ***Concerns about a narrowly drawn scope.*** While meeting participants were not yet necessarily in agreement on exactly what topics need to be addressed during the Work Group's deliberations, participants did tend to agree that a narrowly drawn focus on meter retrofitting and volumetric pricing runs the risk of being duplicative of or at odds with current AB 306 deliberations. Moreover, such a narrow definition (1) eliminates consideration of important issues such as data collection and other measurement strategies, and (2) likely does not capture the interest of a number of Work Group participants.

The attached document has been redrafted to address and account for these overarching considerations. It also has been revised based on discussions with stakeholders during the March 28 Drafting Team teleconference.

Please review the attached material carefully and come to the April 7, 2003 meeting prepared either to confirm the revised scope or suggest specific revisions. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

## **Proposed Purpose Statement**

### **Staff Work Group on Urban Water Use Measurement**

*(Revised based on discussions at the March 18, 2003, Staff Work Group meeting and at the March 28, 2003, Drafting Team meeting. For review at April 7, 2003, Staff Work Group meeting)*

1. The California Bay-Delta Authority (Authority), on behalf of CALFED Agencies, is convening a Staff Work Group to help it define appropriate measurement as it relates to urban water use.
2. The Authority recognizes that urban water use measurement impacts state and federal water management objectives related to planning, allocation, transfer and water use efficiency.
3. The August 2000 CALFED Record of Decision called for this effort in recognition that some stakeholders are concerned about the state's current approach to measurement.
4. Past Authority policy discussions and interviews with stakeholders suggest these concerns stem from several sources. These include:
  - Concerns that the state's current legal framework creates inequitable burdens among water users. These inequities, which take a variety of forms, stem both from distinctions between pre- and post-1992 state requirements<sup>1</sup> and differences between state and federal requirements. Metered water users who pay volumetrically may contribute disproportionately more to statewide water management than un-metered users. In areas where flat rates prevail, customers who conserve can end up subsidizing the water use of those who waste. Additionally, different types of users (e.g., residential versus commercial versus industrial, or agricultural versus urban) want to be sure that they are being treated equitably relative to one another.
  - Concerns that the state's lack of a comprehensive policy to require metering and volumetric pricing undermines water agencies' ability to implement state/federal water management objectives related to water use efficiency. (Data suggests that metering, when coupled with volumetric pricing, results in water savings averaging 20% per household. Moreover, industry and other standards typically call for metering, coupled with volumetric pricing.)
  - Concerns that the state and federal government's current system of collecting water extraction, delivery and return flow data may not maximize state/federal water management objectives related to planning, allocation, transfers and water use efficiency. Specific concerns center on better understanding and addressing the reasons for significant data gaps associated with urban water use. There are also concerns about inconsistencies across agency data, such as user classifications.

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<sup>1</sup> All new residences constructed after 1992 must include meters. Residences constructed before 1992 are not required to have meters.

- Concerns that uneven implementation of newer measurement approaches and technologies may be undermining water agencies' ability to implement state/federal water management objectives, particularly as they relate to planning and water use efficiency. These options include, but are not limited to, such possibilities as sub-metering, landscape metering and aerial surveys, and wastewater/recycled water metering.
5. At the same time, the Authority recognizes there are important resource efficiency, historic, legal, cost, geographic, geologic, equity, and customer-impact concerns driving the regions' differing approaches to urban water use measurement. The Authority further recognizes the imperative of better understanding these factors and accounting for them in any emerging approach to measurement.
  6. The Authority believes a diverse stakeholder group can assist it in:
    - Confirming and better defining the concerns associated with the current measurement approach;
    - More fully understanding and articulating the regional distinctions underlying the current measurement approaches; and,
    - Identifying elements to include in a definition of appropriate urban water use measurement that:
      - Address the paramount limitations of the state's current legal, regulatory or implementation approach.
      - Step out strategies to facilitate successful implementation of any new urban water use measurement approaches. These include consideration of such issues as: incentive-based approaches; exemptions; implementation timing/sequencing; cost-sharing; public outreach/education; equity considerations; technical and legal barriers; and, assurances.
  7. The Authority does not interpret its ROD commitment as a charge to address all inconsistencies and gaps identified in the current system of measurement. Rather, it sees its task as identifying those changes necessary to help agencies achieve state/federal water management objectives.
  8. While the Authority recognizes legislation may prove necessary to implement any recommended changes, it is possible that the current statutes will prove adequate as currently drafted.
  9. Any recommendations developed by the WUE Program Manager as a result of informal Work Group deliberations will be subsequently discussed with the broader stakeholder community and among formal Authority advisory and decision-making bodies.